

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Kazuhiko ONO *et al.*

Serial Number: NEW

Filed: January 18, 2002 (herewith)

For: LASER WELDING METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 18, 2002

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 3 to read as follows:

-- 3. (Amended) A laser welding method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said laser beam 2 is weaved in a direction substantially perpendicular to the welding advanced direction. --

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Please add the following new claim:


-- 5. A laser welding method as claimed in claim 2 wherein said laser beam 2 is weaved in a direction substantially perpendicular to the welding advanced direction. --

REMARKS

In the foregoing amendments, Claim 3 was 3 amended to remove its multiple dependency, and Claim 5 was added to the application. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned **"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."** Early consideration and allowance of Claims 1-5 are respectfully requested.

In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this application, it is respectfully requested that such fees be charged to our Deposit Account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,
VARNDELL & VARNDELL, PLLC
(formerly Varndell Legal Group)


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 3 was amended as follows:

-- 3. (Amended) A laser welding method as claimed in claim 1 [or 2]
wherein said laser beam 2 is weaved in a direction substantially perpendicular
to the welding advanced direction. --